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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/914,811	01/03/2002	John Anthony Armour	16-007	2632

7590

01/29/2003

Richard A. Sharpe
Watts, Hoffmann, Fisher & Heinke Co
P.O. Box 99839
Cleveland, OH 44199-0839

EXAMINER

WHISENANT, ETHAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1634

10

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/914,811

Applicant(s)

ARMOUR, JOHN ANTHONY

Examiner

Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27-50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 51 and 52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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FINAL REJECTION

1. The applicant's Response (filed 11 NOV 02) to the Office Action has been entered. The applicant's response has been entered as paper no. 8. The claims pending in this application are **Claim(s) 27-52**. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from the previous office action are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either newly applied or reiterated. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

SEQUENCE RULES

2. This application fails to comply with the sequence rules. See the attached CRF problem report. Note the paper copy has been entered.

35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that may form the basis for rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) The invention was described in --

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a)

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

4. Claim(s) 51-52 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhang et al. [US 5,942,391 (1999)].

Claim 51 is drawn to a set of probes for use in performing the method according to Claim 27. Claim 52 is drawn to a kit for performing the method according to Claim 27 wherein said kit comprises a probe set, amplification primers and means to enable amplification and analysis of amplification product(s). Zhang et al. teach a set of probes as well as a kit comprising all of the structural limitations recited in Claims 51-52, see especially Column 25, beginning at about line 9 and ending at about line 47.

RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT/ ARGUMENTS

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claimed invention have been fully and carefully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive in full. Upon review of the applicant's arguments, the pending claims, and prior art cited against Claim 27, the examiner is of the opinion that Claim 27 is allowable over Zhang et al. because this reference does not alone or in combination with the other prior art of record teach or reasonably suggest a method comprising all of the limitations of Claim 27 wherein the copy number of the target nucleic acid sequences present in the sample of genetic material is determined. As regards the 102(e) rejection of Claims 51-52 as being anticipated by Zhang et al. the examiner is not persuaded. The applicant argues that because the probes recited in Claims 51-52 operate by way of hybridization, not ligation neither the probes of Claim 51 nor the kit of Claim 52 is anticipated by Zhang et al.

To begin, it must be pointed out that the method of Zhang et al. also relies on hybridization, as well as ligation, to achieve their goal (i.e. the detection of target nucleic acid sequences). See for example Figure 2. As the applicant is no doubt aware, one cannot produce the type of ligation products (i.e. ligation circles) taught by Zhang et al. without specific hybridization. As regards the probe/kit claims [i.e. Claim(s) 51-52], the applicant appears to be relying on the intended use of the probes for patentability rather than their structure. It is well established, that of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967); *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

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CONCLUSION

6. Claim(s) 27-50 is/are allowable while Claim(s) 51-52 is/are rejected and/or objected to for the reason(s) set forth above.

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-6567. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30AM -5:30PM EST or any time via voice mail. If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones, can be reached at (703) 308-1152.

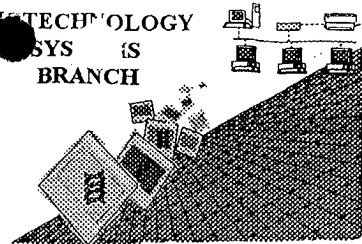
The fax number for this Examiner is (703) 746-8465. Before faxing any papers please inform the examiner to avoid lost papers. Please note that the faxing of papers must conform with the Notice to Comply published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner

OIPK

BIOLOGY
SYS IS
BRANCH



CRF Problem Report

The Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC) experienced a problem when processing the following computer readable form (CRF):

Application Serial Number: 09/914,811
Filing Date: 8/30/2001
Date Processed by STIC: 12/11/2002

RECEIVED

DEC 30 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

STIC Contact: Mark Spencer, 703-308-4212

Nature of Problem:

The CRF (was):

melted

- ☐ (circle one) ☒ Damaged or Unreadable (for Unreadable, see attached)
☐ Blank (no files on CRF) (see attached)
☐ Empty file (filename present, but no bytes in file) (see attached)
☐ Virus-infected. Virus name: _____ The STIC will not process the CRF.
☐ Not saved in ASCII text
☐ Sequence Listing was embedded in the file. According to Sequence Rules, submitted file should **only** be the Sequence Listing.
☐ Did not contain a Sequence Listing. (see attached sample)
☐ Other: _____

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Applicants submitting genetic sequence information electronically on diskette or CD-Rom should be aware that there is a possibility that the disk/CD-Rom may have been affected by treatment given to all incoming mail.

Please consider using alternate methods of submission for the disk/CD-Rom or replacement disk/CD-Rom.

Any reply including a sequence listing in electronic form should NOT be sent to the 20231 zip code address for the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and instead should be sent via the following to the indicated addresses:

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2. U.S. Postal Service: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box Sequence, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202
3. Hand Carry directly to:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Technology Center 1600, Reception Area, 7th Floor, Examiner Name, Sequence Information, Crystal Mall One, 1911 South Clark Street, Arlington, VA 22202
Or
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box Sequence, Customer Window, Lobby, Room 1B03, Crystal Plaza Two, 2011 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22202
4. Federal Express, United Parcel Service , or other delivery service to: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box Sequence, Room 1B03-Mailroom, Crystal Plaza Two, 2011 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22202

Revised 01/29/2002